

# Dragon Newsletter



*April 25, 2006 Edition*

## Springtime and Easter Greetings!

Dear Dragon Families and Friends,

By the time you read this newsletter, 1-4 Aviation Regiment will be coming up on its six month-mark in theater. At the halfway point, things are going strong and routines are running smoothly. Our Soldiers at all levels have developed immensely in their individual job positions, gaining a lot of experience in the time we have been here. We look forward to the last six months of this tour, and hope to pass some of our knowledge on to the next unit that takes over the mission.

With high summer temperatures drawing near, everyone is making preparations to keep cool—and safe. More sunshades are being put up over living and work spaces, and protective equipment, such as special mechanics gloves, are being ordered to keep Soldiers' hands from directly touching hot metal surfaces during maintenance. Camelbacks are being pulled out from under Soldiers' beds and worn to stay hydrated throughout the day—as hydration becomes an increasingly important concern this time of year. Even Soldiers' haircuts—cropped shorter than normal—are a way to beat the heat.

Easter Sunday started off with a “Sunrise Service” at 0600 hours in 404's maintenance hangar for all our early risers and night shift folks. There were several other Easter services and concerts on Camp Taji during the day, and the dining halls were filled with decorations. Soldiers could even sip a little bit of sparkling white or red grape juice while they ate their Easter dinner. While KBR and other facilities on campus did their best to make it a good holiday, Soldiers' families were never far from their minds. Thanks to all the FRG volunteers that helped put together the Easter bags—it was a great treat for the Soldiers!

In softball news, HHC upset E Company's unstoppable winning streak on Saturday, April 15th, when it beat E Company 6-5 during an afternoon tournament. E Company was previously undefeated, having played several games against C and D Companies.

1-4 Aviation welcomes our new B Company commander, CPT Murphy “Andy” Caine, who comes to us from the Brigade S3 Plans section. CPT Caine took command March 28, 2006 from CPT Jeffrey Papaleo, who had been the B Company commander for 21 months. CPT Papaleo will continue to serve in the Combat Aviation Brigade in Brigade Plans. Our thanks go out to both Jeff and Melissa for all they've contributed to the Dragon Team. They will be missed. This change of command is the first of several officer switches that will be occurring in the battalion over the next several months, in order to give leaders the chance to experience different command and staff positions.



**LTC Rapavi passes the B Company guidon to new company commander, CPT Caine, while 1SG Lambert and CPT Papaleo look on. This is the first change of command within the battalion since May 2005.**

Our battalion internet café is once again up and running, thanks in large part to CPT Hanson, SFC Brathwaite, and other Commo shop Soldiers. The use of the café is completely free for Soldiers, and access is 24 hours. We have had several communications blackouts since the café has been back in business, so many Soldiers may not have had the opportunity to use it yet.

As always, we appreciate all the support we receive from our family and friends back in the States. Special thanks go out this month to Daisy Troop 2022 out of Long Beach, New York, for donating the awesome Girl Scout cookies. We look forward to returning home to you in another six months.

Sincerely,  
Lieutenant Colonel Mike Rapavi  
Dragon 06

# Alpha Company "Vipers"



To the friends and families of the Vipers, Happy Easter! Yes, sad to say another holiday has passed where we are all away from our families. But the good part of that is that means its one more month down until we all return home. Most everyone has finally gotten into a groove with the fast and hectic pace of everything over here. Little by little the thermometer is creeping up each day. At this point we still have not broken the triple digit mark, but we all know that it is coming soon!

Despite being in a combat zone, many Vipers are still taking steps to improve themselves professionally. Congratulations goes to CW2 Paul for achieving Pilot-in-Command. It has been a long time coming and we were all thrilled to see pass his check ride. It was the most animated most of us had ever seen him. After his first flight as a PIC, the crew chiefs were waiting for him to congratulate them in their own special way. They doused him with water—and a lot of it!

He has stayed busy since then serving as a much needed addition to the Pilot-in-Commands in the company. CW2 Foster endured a rigorous week-long Equal Opportunity Course and is now serving as the company's Equal Opportunity Advisor. In addition, SPC Peters and SPC Zwadzich completed the Combat Lifesaver Course, giving the company two desperately needed Combat Lifesavers.

All of the Vipers are continuing to find ways to make the most of the little free time that we all have. SGT Woodburn now has more participants in his "Body by Woodburn" workout program. What started out as a fondness for cigars has now turned into an obsession for many of the pilots in the company. CW2 James and CW2 Swetz created the "Viper Lounge," converting some camouflage netting, chairs, and white Christmas lights into a place of solace for all cigar smokers. Nightly people know that when the Christmas lights are on, a "smoke out" is currently underway.



**A soaking wet CW2 Paul gets a congratulatory handshake from CW4 Young for completing his first flight as Pilot in Command.**

get to take a much needed break back home on leave. 1SG Odonnell just returned, and has the same smile on his face that CW2 Larabee and PFC Garlick had on theirs when they returned from time with their family and friends. That made the rest of us who have not been yet envious and looking more forward to getting the opportunity for some time off back home. In addition, we are all anxiously awaiting the arrival of SSG Thompson and SGT Wells. As much as I am sure they hate to leave their families, their Viper Family is really looking forward to seeing them, and more importantly putting them to work!

Well that's about all the news that's fit to print for this month. We all miss everyone back home so much. We all keep praying that time continues to fly and we get home soon and safely.

CPT Timothy Measner  
Company Commander



**CW2 James goofos around with part of an Apache pilot's helmet.**

March also saw more Vipers

# Bravo Company "Raptors"



Raptor Family & Friends,

I am honored to be writing you for the first time as the Commander of Bravo Company. I have made my best effort to contact each of you personally via email over the last couple weeks. For those I have missed, I am CPT Murphy "Andy" Caine, and I assumed command of the company on March 28<sup>th</sup>. As some of you know, my wife, Hartleigh, was a platoon leader in Bravo Company during the last deployment to Iraq. During that time period, I was part of the Bravo Company Family Readiness Group (FRG), receiving updates on deployment information, suffering through the communication blackouts, and counting down the days to redeployment like everyone else. So the FRG and other support groups are very close to my heart. Now that I am on the "operational" side of the fence, I have not forgotten what it feels like to be the one at home, taking care of family, finances, and other necessities of life. I thank you personally for everything you do, and the support you provide us. It is you that gives us the strength to remain focused and vigilant.

The last couple weeks have been a time of great change of accomplishment for the Raptors. In addition to the change of command on March 29<sup>th</sup>, the company held a ceremony to award the Army "Combat Action Badge" to CPT Papaleo, CW3 Lowell Jones, CW2 Gregory Vaughn, and 1LT Clinton Speegle. The Combat Action Badge is awarded to Soldiers who perform with excellence during a direct engagement with the enemy. The award must be approved at every level of the chain of command and signed by Major General Thurman, the Commanding General of Multi-National Division-Baghdad. These four aviators were the first four in the battalion to earn the award. During a company formation, LTC Rapavi personally pinned the award on each of them; a proud day for them and for Bravo Company.

Our enlisted Soldiers continue to lead the way in air maintenance. Even before my change of command, many people informed me of the Raptors high level of crew chiefs. As one officer put it, "every crew chief in Bravo Company is outstanding, and the evidence is clear when you look at the com-



**CPT Andy Caine, the new B Company commander, and his wife CPT Hartleigh Caine, who will be taking command of a company in 1-4 Aviation Regiment.**

pany's aircraft." Even those words could not prepare me for how impressed I have been during the last couple weeks. Led by Sergeant First Class Peter Lizama, the company has maintained a 100% Fully Mission Capable rate for the last five days, the first time I has seen that during my two deployments. The families of these Soldiers should be very proud. Their success is making a huge impact on not just the company, but also the battalion and brigade by providing the combat power to maintain 24/7 operations.

Likewise, the Raptor Aviators are true professionals: experienced, poised, and dedicated. Even the most junior pilots have built a wealth of experience over the last couple

months that have made them stronger and safer Army Aviators. I could not have hoped to inherit a better team.

With the change of command came a change in the Raptor Family Readiness Group (FRG) leadership. As I have already noted, I have experienced first-hand the importance of the FRG. The job of the FRG leader is a volunteer, time-consuming, largely thankless job. It involved meetings and hours of phone calls/emails in attempt to inform you of the latest information. Thankfully for the company, Gerrine Lizama stepped forward to take the responsibilities of FRG leader. She has already surpassed my expectations. Within her hectic work and family schedule she has found the time to organize several events, including an Easter outing at a local park. I hope many of you found the time to attend, and will assist Gerrine in the months ahead. Gerrine, from the bottom of my heart I thank you for what you are doing for the Raptors and our families.

As you know, we have had several communication blackouts at Camp Taji over the last couple weeks, causing stress both here and at home. I will try to send emails, via my FRG distribution list, to provide you information as soon as I can. For those who are not on the FRG distribution list and would like to be added, please email me at [murphy.caine@avbdi4.army.mil](mailto:murphy.caine@avbdi4.army.mil). I look forward to hearing from each of you and meeting you and your families once we redeploy.

For those of you whose spouses are coming home on EML shortly, enjoy your much deserved time together. Please stay safe, and thank you for all that you do.

Sincerely,  
Captain Andy Caine  
Raptor 06  
Commanding





# Charlie Company “Sidewinders”

So much for Spring! It was short and sweet, but now temperatures are pushing triple digits. It only gets hotter from here, but the good news is that we’re almost halfway through the deployment.

This month, the performance of our crew chiefs has been especially outstanding. Despite putting over 700 flight hours on our aircraft in only thirty days (that’s a lot, even for us!), we’ve managed to keep our “mission capable” percentage very high. Right now, no one else is coming close to these guys. They’ve got a lot of pride in their aircraft and in their organization, believe me it shows! Now, if we could only get that same level of performance during our weekly softball game. So far, E Company has been putting it to us each week (0-3). But I’m confident that our guys will pull out a “W” soon.

The company’s pilots have also been posting some impressive numbers. To date, they’ve flown six hundred more



**SGT Dorman, SFC Sanchez, SPC Jernigan, and SGT Castro head out to the softball field with their game faces on.**

**SPC Hardin, SPC Tallet, and SGT Dorman tune up a bicycle. Bicycles are a popular means of transportation here on Taji, as many Soldiers do not have access to vehicles.**



hours than the next closest company! More important than quantity has been their quality. I’ve been very impressed with their consistently outstanding performance during some very difficult circumstances. They are doing a difficult job, day in and day out, and they make it look easy. Both Attack Helicopter Battalions (1-4 and 4-4 AVN) have been getting their “licks” in lately and our company is no exception. I’m extremely proud of each of them. They are talented and brave, to a man.

Thanks again for all of your support!

Very Respectfully,

Mark A. Greene  
“Sidewinder 06”  
Captain, US Army  
Commanding

# Delta Company "Dawgs"



Yet another month has passed here at Taji. Greetings to all of the Dawg families and friends and we thank you for your support. Taji has not changed much since the last writing of this newsletter, but the weather is surely changing. The temperatures during the day have almost reached the 100s and we are bracing for a long hot summer. CamelBaks will soon become a common and mandatory part of the uniform to ensure that Soldiers are consuming enough water. We also have acquired work gloves for all Soldiers to use while working on the aircraft in the hot sun. Those aircraft get so hot you would not want to touch them without some type of protection on your hands. We have continued to acquire sunglasses for Soldiers and are ensuring that they meet the additional standard to be capable of ballistic protection.

Your Soldiers continue to exceed expectations in a grueling, intense environment where their skill and dedication is truly the difference between meeting the Battalion mission and failure. Due to the amount of hours we are flying here, maintenance continues to perform a large number of replacements on engines, transmissions and gearboxes. I want to send a special thanks to SPC Cordeiro and SPC Platt for a job well done over the past month. They are doing an excellent job keeping the aircraft going in a safe and expeditious manner. Armament usually has a task to complete on every aircraft that flies during a given day. Their job description is so broad that they are called upon to perform tasks on a constant rotation as the aircraft depart and return from mission. To say the least, the Armament platoon is earning their pay over here! They are also doing a fine job; without them, and their troubleshooting expertise, we would not be able to maintain this tempo on an aircraft that is so armament intensive. For the past month, I would like to recognize SPC Zapata for his exceptional work on various wiring jobs on

**TOP: SPC Barraza poses while heading to Tech Supply for a much needed part.**

**BOTTOM: CPL Guffey drains the oil from an Apache engine.**





# Delta Company "Dawgs"



**SPC Hougaboom, SFC Lyter, SPC Drew, SGT Diemert, SPC Banuelos, SPC Barraza, SPC Eubanks, CPT James, SPC Staples, SGT Schmitz, SSG Domingo, SPC Boughner and 1SG Belle pose with SGT Foreman after his re-enlistment**

making the early preparations to move back to central Texas. We have a while to go but moving all of this equipment back will take the same effort that it required to move it over here. Needless to say, we need to get an early start. While we are busy completing the mission here, we hope that all of our families are doing well. I am honored to be a part of this great Company and I appreciate what you and your Soldiers do on a daily basis. Make no mistake; your job is difficult and just as important as ours out here. Without an excellent support system it would be much more difficult to sustain the morale and dedication that this Company enjoys. 1SG Belle and I send our best to each and every one of you. Please be safe and continue to support your Soldiers...they are great Americans.

Corey M. James  
DAWG 06

the aircraft. Great job. Shops platoon is leading the effort to complete an engine upgrade on all of the aircraft. The upgrade is well ahead of schedule, which is mostly due to the hard work of CPL Guffy and SPC Riera.

We want to congratulate SPC Perez on being named the Battalion Soldier of the Month for March. He rose to the challenge and outperformed his peers with his knowledge and military bearing. The company had a large amount of promotions this month. Congratulations go to the newly promoted SGT Schmitz, SPC Marble, SPC Chiodo, SPC Platt, SPC Ginn and SPC Haven. These Soldiers are doing a fantastic job and are very deserv-

ing of their promotion. In further news, SSG Hobbs and SGT Foreman re-enlisted this month and decided to continue their service in our Army. Thanks to both of you for what you do and for your decision to serve our nation.

As you can see, we had another busy month. The days and weeks go by fast for us and we hope that you are not burdened by our absence. Believe it or not, we are already

**Maintenance platoon hard at work on a 250 hour inspection.**



# Echo Company "Rough Riders"



Greetings from Roughrider 5!

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL - FROM THE ROUGHRIDERS. We wish we could join you for this great holiday but duty has called.

The fuelers are back in town! We want to welcome back the Soldiers from the Distribution Platoon who had just recently returned from their 90-day rotation at BIAP. Congratulations on their hard work and dedication to the mission in support of the Multi-National and Coalition forces FARP. They worked hard and earned commendations for issuing and receiving over 1 million gallons of fuel for over 4,000 Multi-National and Coalition Forces aircraft within their 90-day period. Job well done! Now that they are back they will begin operating 24 hours of cold refuel and defuel for the battalion. They will also be taking up the load for part of 2-4 AVN's mission as well.

The Maintenance Platoon has also been doing a great job maintaining the #1 rank within the brigade. Fearless leaders have led the maintenance section of this company into a great year. Maintenance Soldiers have also been cooking out almost every weekend. This past Friday, SGT Compton made his soon-to-be famous deviled eggs, while CW2 Horton cooked beans and guacamole; and of course, steaks.

The Company Softball Team is currently participating in a MWR Softball Tournament. After winning our first game 23-4, we have high hopes for the team.

As the Soldiers of E Co continue to cycle through Environmental Leave, we are still responsible for conducting regular day to day operations which continues to be a challenge for many.

**CPT Ritch and CPL Reeder promoting PFC Angelo Ricciardo to the rank of Specialist.**



**CPT Ritch promoting SGT Eide to Staff Sergeant.**

## PROMOTIONS

SSG Eide, Rodlee (Distro. Plt)  
SPC Daley, David (Distro. Plt)  
SPC Edwards, Clint (Maint. Plt)  
SPC Ricciardo, Angelo (Distro. Plt)  
SPC Waller, Allen (Maint. Plt)  
PFC Mullins, Brent (Maint. Plt)  
PFC Sierra, Joan (Maint. Plt)

We wish the best for the Soldiers who have been selected for the Soldier of the Month Board on 20 Apr 06. SPC Simmons from the Distribution Platoon as well as PFC Martinez and PFC Escamilla both from the Maintenance Platoon will be attending. These Soldiers have been selected to attend based on their outstanding performances and great potential to become future leaders of the United States Army. We also recently welcomed PV2 Tieuel, PFC Green-Peoples, PV2 Woods, and PV2 Hadnot to our company. These Soldiers have already been integrated into our Roughrider Family and are hard at work.

Congratulations to SGT(P) Lashanda Williams (HQ Plt) and SGT (P) Phillip Parker (Distro Plt) for attending the Promotion Board in April. They have both done a great job and are well deserving of their upcoming ranks. They are ready to face greater responsibilities and a challenging way of life.

Reaching the half-way point of our deployment, we wish we could be there with all of you. We may not be there in person but we are definitely with you in spirit. We are forever grateful for your unending love and support.



# HHC "Stallions"



## Stallion Family and Friends,

Hello once again from Camp Taji. It is hard to believe that another month has passed by here in the desert. The weather has been very nice the past couple of weeks. The longer the temperature stays under 100 degrees the happier we will be. We are staying very busy and the Soldiers are working extremely hard. Your Stallions are true professionals in the way they go about their daily duties and you should all be very proud of the excellent job they are doing. The HHC FRG and Rear-D are still doing a phenomenal job. The FRG ensured that the Soldiers were not forgotten during Easter. Each Soldier received a nice Easter Bag of candy with love from home.

We have added three more Stallions to the stable this month. I am pleased to welcome PFC Powers, PFC Kinsey and PV2 Thompson. PFC Powers and PFC Kinsey are a welcome addition to an al-

ready dynamic communications section. And the Chaplain has been without a much-needed assistant for a while. PV2 Thompson will fill the void for the Chaplain and bring a positive attitude to his ministry.

Since the last newsletter we have had a few Soldiers take advantage of the Division's pass policy. These Soldiers have taken the opportunity to spend time in Qatar enjoying several day trips. These trips include water sports, picnics and cultural tours. The Soldiers had access to swimming pools, video games, internet, telephones, PX and fast food restaurants. This trip provides a much needed break from the daily duties here in Iraq. The Stallions that took part in the Qatar trip enjoyed themselves immensely.

To date we have had twenty-one Stallions return home for environmental morale leave. During the month of April there will be another nine Stallions fortunate



**1LT Nicole Davis, getting ready to ride in the M1114.**

**CPT Ramon Fry poses for a photo in front of an Apache on the day of his promotion, April 1, 2006.**



enough to return home for leave. This much needed downtime allows the Soldiers to decompress even if for only a couple of weeks. Each Soldier that I have seen return from leave has been eager to get back to the task at hand. These revitalized Stallions allow the unit to ride on a fresh wave of new energy that returns from a state side visit.

I would like to congratulate two very deserving non-commissioned officers on their selection for promotion. SSG(P) Thomas and SSG(P) Washington have both been selected by the Department of The Army for promotion to become senior NCOs in the rank of Sergeant First Class. SSG(P) Thomas has served admirably as the HHC supply sergeant for the past four years. An individual in the rank of Sergeant First Class generally has 15 to 18 years of service. SSG(P) Washington



## HHC "Stallions" (cont'd)



of the communications section has achieved this goal in a mere nine years of military service. These two stellar Stallions embody all the traits of true leadership in motion.

Congratulations also go out to CPT Ramon L. Fry II, the battalion Physicians Assistant. He was promoted to Captain on 1 APR 06 in a small ceremony on the airfield. CPT Fry joined the unit prior to the battalion's rotation to the National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, California in July 2005. His abilities were very evident during the real world medical emergencies that occurred in the opening days of the rotation. CPT Fry took charge of a very capable medical section and immediately enhanced their abilities. Keep up the good work CPT Fry, we are all proud of you.

There is not a Soldier in this company who would not rather be home with his or her family than here in Iraq. Since we

have to be deployed, understand that we are making a difference here. I continue to applaud you for your efforts at home, as you are our foundation. It is through you that we draw our strength. We could not do this without you! Thank you for all that you do. In closing, I will leave you with this quote from Thomas Paine:

*"If there must be trouble, let it be in my day, so that my child...may have peace!"*

**STALLIONS ATTACK!!**

**CPT Byron C. Needum  
Stallion 06**



**Above: PFC Blake, eating some good Dining Facility breakfast to-go.**



**Commo shop Soldiers SSG Washington and PFC Kinsey, at the line company command post area. Commo shop Soldiers are responsible for ensuring all means of communication—radio, telephone, and computer—are up and operational for the whole battalion.**

# Dragon Photo Corner



CPT Green and CW3 McGhee pause to talk to CW4 Small on the way to the shower.



C Company softball players on the battalion softball field.



SPC Boyer and PFC Brown inspect an engine compartment.



SGT Pritchard, hanging out in the C Company crew chief office.



SPC Wongsing installing an internal auxillary tank.



CW2 Horton from E Co and SFC Friend from HHC pose for a photo.



# Dragon Photo Corner



Clockwise from top: CW2 Vaughn, CW2 Fitzgerald, SPC Martinez, SGT Ross, and CPL Keith at the CP area.



CPT Papaleo, CW2 Vaughn, CW3 Jones, and 1LT Speegle receive their CAB awards from LTC Rapavi and CSM Morant.



SGT Keister helps SPC Morehouse install his new DAPS shoulder armor.



A quick photographer captured this scene over the Taji Airfield.



CPT James congratulates SPC Marble after his promotion.



SPC Riera, hard at work on an engine.



# Dragon Photo Corner



ISG Lambert gives his Soldiers instructions on the run portion of the PT test.



A retaining pond on the airfield, called "Lake Bramblett" by many in 1-4, named after C Co's SPC Bramblett.



SSG Lockert, our new medic NCO, is already hard at work.



SFC Lizama makes repairs to an Apache tail rotor.



SFC Sanchez gets in a good hit during the C Co vs. E Co game.



ISG Hampton at one of the more scenic facilities on Taji.



# Dragon Photo Corner



SPC Ludwig finds a pair of ballistic-approved eye protection that shows off his personal style.



E Company promotion formation, with the promotees in the front row, and the NCOs promoting them in the back row.



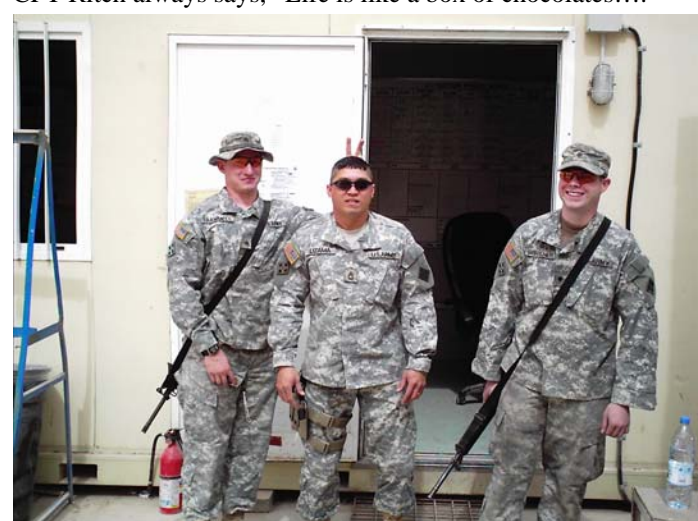
CPT James reenlists SGT Forman in the D Company hangar.



CPT Ritch always says, "Life is like a box of chocolates...."



CW3 Jones and 1LT Shouse with a flag flown over Taji for 1SG Lambert's family.



SGT Trammell, SFC Lizama, and SPC Gosvener at the CP.



## Chaplain's Corner



As Soldiers begin to return from leave, it has become more and more entertaining to discover some of the humorous nuances of our deployment. Think about it...where else do you get completely dressed just to go potty at 3 o'clock in the morning? Or thinking twice before you plug your portable DVD player into the wall socket? How about wearing your Kevlar helmet, bright reflective vest, and ballistic eye protection while riding a bike with a rifle strapped on your back? If that's not funny, then ask your battle buddy take a picture of you...you'll see what I mean. Oh, then there is always walking to the Laundromat about a quarter mile away, showing all of your "personals" to a group of foreign nationals, and then a day later, picking them up, with the complete knowledge that someone, somewhere, somehow, handled your "personals" into nicely folded squares. Perhaps the most humorous of all is how we carry these daily routines into our lives while back on leave.

Picture this...you're home in the presence of your lovely or handsome spouse, the children are tucked into bed, and you get up, grab your socks, shoes, shirt, trousers, and a towel only to walk a few steps to the restroom so that you may take a shower. Seem crazy? ...It happens. How about getting ready to go the store, but you become increasingly perturbed because you know you're forgetting something...then you remember that your M-16 is still in Iraq. These stories of course, are just the tip of the iceberg. But I am reminded of the potency of humor in the midst of any daunting situation. Walt Kelly once stated, "Learn to laugh at your troubles and you'll never run out of things to laugh at."

Even more intriguing is the appreciation of knowing that Jesus, while speaking to a group critics, displayed a sense of humor saying, "You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel (Matthew 23:24)." Ask anyone in HHC, the gnats in our office are miniscule, while the Iraqi camels are gargantuan in comparison...and they chew and spit like our Soldiers too! Imagine someone trying to swallow a camel...that's funny. Our sense of humor among our families, our friends, even our co-workers, remains a powerful morale booster regardless of our predicament. Therefore smile a little, laugh a lot, and know that as you observe the humorous nuances of deployment in Iraq or with our families at Ft. Hood, that humor is healthy and perhaps—just perhaps—God may be laughing right beside you.

"Dragons Attack, Amen."

Chaplain (Captain) Regino Hernandez



**LEFT:**  
SGT York, a B Company crew chief, dons his helmet and protective eyewear before riding his personalized "high visibility" bicycle.

**RIGHT:**  
SPC Ludwig's "bike helmet" probably doesn't pass U.S. Safety standards... but at least he's wearing his protective eyewear!